

Limiting sports agent regulation to football and basketball
(SB 876 by Armbrister/Berlanga)

DIGEST: SB 876 would have strengthened the law governing the activities of professional sports agents seeking to sign contracts with collegiate football and basketball players. Institutions of higher education would have been required to adopt standards regarding contact of athletes by agents and to appoint a compliance coordinator. The maximum penalty for violating the statute regulating the activities of sports agents would have been raised from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Institutions of higher education adversely affected by the actions of a sports agent would have been authorized to sue the agent.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

This bill would limit regulation of agents dealing with college athletes to those involved in football and basketball only. Current law regulates agents who recruit athletes in all sports. It is inappropriate to limit state regulation to only two sports.

RESPONSE:

Sen. Kenneth Armbrister, the author of SB 876, said the problem with sports agents does not involve all sports, just football and basketball. "Lacrosse and track and field don't lead to problems with agents, just the sports with professional leagues," said Sen. Armbrister. Baseball, included in the original bill, was deleted because Southwest Conference officials said the way the baseball draft works does not lead to abuses. The bill was intended to fine tune and clarify existing law. The universities had many questions on procedural requirements arising from the existing law, and this bill was in direct response to their stated needs. "Apparently the governor did not understand the issue or meet with the same people the committee dealt with," Sen. Armbrister said.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization digest of SB 876 appeared in Part Three of the May 24, 1989 Daily Floor Report.